



## LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES - 2013 -

Country: Ghana

### SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE USE, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

This section targets information on legislation and policies related specifically to the management of animal genetic resources, i.e. to:

- characterization, surveying and monitoring;
- sustainable use and development;
- conservation; and
- research and development related to animal genetic resources management.

It also includes issues related to patenting and access and benefit sharing. Instruments in these fields of action may or may not include specific provisions related to animal genetic resources or to relevant broader categories such as living organisms or genetic resources for food and agriculture.

#### 1. Overall management of animal genetic resources

*Note: In the policy field, this might include, for example, a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources.*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

A national action plan for animal genetic resources is being prepared by the NCC.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Sensitization workshop on the importance of legislation in the management of AnGR

#### 2. Integration of animal genetic resources management with the management of other genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, forest or aquatic genetic resources)

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

#### 3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The NCC on AnGR has discussed the urgent need for the development of a legislation to ensure regular and consistent surveying of AnGR to enhance monitoring and sustainable use.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

The NCC is financially constrained to fully perform its functions. It also needs support from the Sub-regional focal point on AnGR in ensuring that member states take inventory of AnGR and update data in DAD-IS.

#### 4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Ghana's country report on AnGR clearly list and describes all livestock breeds in the country.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Phenotypic and genetic characterisation of Ghana's AnGR is in progress.

Future needs

Characterization and inventory of emerging breeds.

#### 5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Production Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has six livestock nucleus breeding stations for indigenous species of animals; West African Shorthorn cattle, Ashanti Black pig, Djallonke sheep, West African Dwarf goat, small animals (grasscutter and rabbit), and Sanga cattle. The functions of the breeding stations are to develop improved breeding stock for farmers and to preserve the indigenous species as purebreds. The policy is not fully implemented with stakeholders not showing commitment raising of pure local AnGR.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Farmers can purchase improved breeding stock in these farms to genetically improve their stock.

Future needs

Funding for capacity building and establishment of breeding programmes for local AnGR based on legislation.

**Do these measures address:**

##### 5.1 Animal identification and recording

*Note: Sections 2 and 3 include questions on traceability and on animal identification as it relates to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.*

Legislation

No

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

A national action plan for animal genetic resources is being prepared by NCC.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Sensitization workshop on the importance of legislation in the management of AnGR

##### 5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

Livestock Breeders' Associations formed on regional and district bases by the Livestock Development Project but have become dormant since the end of the project in 2010 as a result of lack of resources for AEAs to monitor them.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Most non-governmental and governmental organizations who want to assist livestock farmers will usually want to go through these associations. The associations received training, breeding stock etc. from these organizations.

Future needs

Strengthening the existing associations and forming new ones at where they do not exist.

## 6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Ghana has a national committee on biosafety which has developed and laid a national biosafety bill before parliament.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Triggered a lot of discussion on the subject in the media on genetically modified foods.

Future needs

Sensitisation workshops for stakeholders and technical support to the national biosafety committee.

## 8. Suitability of imported genetic material for use in local production environments

Note: For example, rules requiring a "genetic assessment" before genetic material can be introduced.

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Public education on genetic materials and training of more personnel to research into GM foods.

## 9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The six livestock breeding stations mentioned above, University farms and the Animal Research Institute are involved in the conservation of AnGR. A review of conservation strategy is being carried out to identify gaps.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Indigenous cattle, sheep, goats and pigs are being conserved as pure.

Future needs

Funding to carry out projects on the conservation of local AnGR.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

### 9.1 In vivo conservation

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Six nucleus breeding stations of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in place to perform function.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Indigenous breeds conserved as purebreds. Possibility of getting purebreds for crossbreeding.

Future needs

Programmes to involve local farmers in the conservation process.

## 9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation

No

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Research Institute has some equipment for cryoconservation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

The Animal Research Institute has equipment for cryopreservation but needs funds to purchase other inputs to make them operational.

## 10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

Ghana is currently implementing the global plan of action on animal genetic resources and developing a national action plan that will build on past efforts to strengthen research and development related to AnGR.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Some phenotypic, genetic and molecular characterization have been done in all species of indigenous livestock.

Future needs

Capacity building in AnGR research and development.

## 11. Patenting

Legislation

No

**If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:**

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Living organisms in general

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 12. Access and benefit sharing arrangements

*Note: The Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 8 August 2013, invited countries to report on the conditions under which genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and used (Circular State Letter C/ NRD-5). Please coordinate responses within your country.*

Legislation

No

Policy

No

**If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:**

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## SECTION 2: MARKETING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing the marketing of animal products, including those addressing:

- the production and marketing of organic products;
- the production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels;
- production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to animal-welfare-related standards; and
- food safety.

While some policies and legislation in these fields of action may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Consumer demand for animal products often has a major influence on the use and development of animal genetic resources. A lack of demand may place a breed at risk of extinction. Marketing initiatives for breed-specific products, or products from production systems in which locally adapted breeds are kept, can provide a means of promoting the use of at-risk breeds and reducing the risk that they will become extinct. Legislation and policies that facilitate initiatives of this kind can have a positive effect in terms of the maintenance of animal genetic diversity. Conversely, legislation and policies that inhibit the marketing of particular types of products, or products from particular locations or production systems, may inhibit the use of animal genetic resources associated with these products, locations or production systems.

### 1. Marketing of animal products in general

*Note: This question refers to measures that are not specifically focused on market subsectors such as organic products or products with designated labels of origin.*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Food and Drugs Bill.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal products produced and marketed in line with the Food and Drugs Bill.

Future needs

Consumer education and training for enforcement officials.

### 2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Veterinary services directorate inspects and approves all meat products marketed in Ghana and those imported into the country.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Value addition to animal products due to adherence to production, transportation and sale of animal products.

Future needs

Consumer education and identification of niche markets for local AnGR products.

### 3. Production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Veterinary services directorate inspects and approves all meat products marketed in Ghana and those imported into the country.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Value addition to animal products due to adherence to production, transportation and sale of animal products.

Future needs

Consumer education and identification of niche markets for local AnGR products.

#### 4. Production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to particular animal welfare-related standards

*Note: For example, rules relating to the marketing of products as “free range” or under similar designations. Basic animal welfare legislation (i.e. not specifically related to marketing) is covered in Section 3.*

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

#### 5. Safety of food products from animals

*Note: If relevant, include measures related to the marketing of products derived from genetically modified organisms.*

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Food and Drugs Law; Meat inspection manual of the Veterinary services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Safety of animal products produced, transported and marketed in Ghana improved.

Future needs

Consumer education and training workshops for operators along the meat value chain.

#### 6. Traceability of animal-origin products

*Note: Sections 1 and 3 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.*

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

The NCC on AnGR is proposing a legislation to ensure that every meat or animal product can be traced to its origin.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

### SECTION 3: ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing animal health and animal welfare. While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Animal genetic resources and their management can be affected both by the direct effects of animal diseases and by the effects of measures taken to control animal diseases. For example, a disease epidemic may threaten the existence of at-risk breeds, particularly if their populations are concentrated geographically. Animal diseases, as influenced by the presence or absence of effective animal health services, can also influence the type of animal genetic resources that can be kept in particular locations, influence breeding objectives and/or affect the economic sustainability of livestock-keeping livelihoods. Compulsory culling measures used to control disease epidemics may pose a threat to geographically concentrated breed populations. Legal restrictions on the import of genetic material because of zoosanitary reasons may affect breeders' access to genetic resources. Legal restrictions on livestock movements, restrictions on particular husbandry practices, or onerous requirements for animal health-related actions on the part of livestock keepers (or in the food processing and marketing chain), may inhibit the keeping of animal genetic resources associated with the production systems targeted. Zoosanitary legislation related to the use of semen, embryos and other genetic materials may have implications for cryoconservation programmes. Legal and policy frameworks related to animal welfare might promote or inhibit the keeping of animals in particular production systems or the use of animals to provide specific products or services. In turn, these developments might promote or inhibit the continued use of the animal genetic resources associated with the respective production systems, products or services.

#### 1. Delivery of animal health services and control of animal diseases

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Veterinary Services Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is mandated by legislation to deliver animal health services and also control animal diseases.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Surveillance for early detection rapid response, Timely diagnosis, treatment/vaccination of animal diseases.

Future needs

Financial and Technical support to the Veterinary Services Department to update legislation.

**Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:**

##### 1.1 Animal identification

*Note: Sections 1 and 2 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and on traceability. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.*

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

##### 1.2 Control of the import of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The Veterinary Services (VSD) and Animal Production (APD) Departments grants permits/health certificate for the importation of AnGR into Ghana.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Healthy animal population maintained.

Future needs

Training workshop for stakeholders and technical support for MOFA staff

**1.3 Control of the export of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons**

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The Veterinary Services Directorate grants permits for AnGR to be exported from Ghana.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

**1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies**

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

**1.5 Control of livestock movements (within the country) for zoosanitary reasons**

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The Veterinary Services Department grants movement permit for the movement of animals within the country.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Control of animal and zoonotic diseases.

Future needs

Strict enforcement of legislation

**1.6 Restrictions or compulsory actions related to husbandry practices (for zoosanitary reasons)**

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Production Department of MOFA is mandated to regulate all husbandry practices and may impose restrictions if necessary.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Safe animal husbandry practices ensured.

Future needs

Financial and Technical support for the Animal Production Department.

**1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases**

Legislation

**If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions to protect at-risk animal genetic resources from the effects of culling programmes?**



Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

The NCC on AnGR is proposing a legislation for humane handling of animals. APD of MOFA ensures that farmers feed, house and breed animals properly whilst the VSD ensures that the animals are healthy.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal welfare protected.

Future needs

Research into animal welfare and behaviour. Capacity building for all stakeholder agencies.

## SECTION 4: AGRICULTURE, LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section targets information on legislation and policies that address the overall management of the production systems, ecosystems and environments within which animal genetic resources are used and developed. The questions address the following main topics:

- general frameworks or strategies for rural development;
- agriculture, land use and natural resources management;
- management of biodiversity;
- other aspects of environmental protection;
- overall livestock-sector development;
- management of rangelands and other grazing lands;
- establishment of livestock farms or holdings
- establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector
- participation of livestock keepers in decision-making in livestock-sector development; and
- prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. For example, policies and legislation that promote or constrain the keeping of livestock in particular production systems, for particular purposes or in particular geographical areas may promote or discourage the use of the animal genetic resources associated with these systems/uses/locations (hence possibly affecting their risk status), lead to the establishment of breeding objectives targeting the development of animals suitable for the favoured systems/uses/locations or lead to the import of genetic resources suitable for these systems/uses/locations.

### 1. General framework or strategy for sustainable agriculture, land use and natural-resources management

*Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments such as national agricultural or rural development policies, strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of agricultural and rural development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.*

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 2. Management of biodiversity

*Note: Please use this question to provide information on the general framework for managing all aspects of the country's biodiversity (e.g. instruments related to the designation and management of protected areas). Include, for example, information on whether animal genetic resources issues are included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on any provisions addressing potential conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between the management of animal genetic resources and the management of other elements of biodiversity. Specific animal genetic-resources-related instruments (e.g National Strategy and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources) should be reported in Section 1 (Question 1).*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

A national biodiversity framework is being developed in consultation with the NCC on AnGR.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The link between AnGR management and biodiversity enhanced.

Future needs

Capacity building for all stakeholders and public education.

## 3. Environmental protection

*Note: Instruments specifically targeting the management of biodiversity are covered under Question 2. Please use this question to provide information on instruments addressing other environmental issues (e.g. addressing pollution of land and water, deforestation, climate change, water use or flood protection). If an instrument addresses both biodiversity and other aspects of environmental protection, please indicate this using a cross-reference to your answer to Question 2.*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Ghana has an Environmental Protection Law operated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Development of AnGR in a sustainable environment.

Future needs

Development of legislation on pastures and protected areas for AnGR.

## 4. Overall development of the livestock sector

*Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments addressing the livestock sector as a whole, such as national livestock development strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of livestock development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.*

Legislation

Policy

**If provisions are in place or under development do/will they include:**

### Particular provisions aimed at supporting livestock keeping in harsh production environments

*Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, favourable access to credit or livestock services, facilitation of market access).*

Legislation

Policy

### Particular provisions aimed at supporting large-scale, high external input or export-oriented production systems or supporting management practices associated with such systems

*Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, subsidized inputs, favourable access to credit or livestock services, support for infrastructure development or mechanization).*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Government encourages private-public partnerships through agencies like the Association of Ghana Industries, Ghana Poultry Farmers Association to support ensure that a favourable climate is created for all stakeholders.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

In recent times there have been more calls for support for the poultry industry to reduce high cost of inputs to enable them produce competitively with imported chicken products.

Future needs

Strategic support for public-private partnerships.

## 5. Management of and access to rangelands or other grazing lands

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The NCC on AnGR is proposing protection of rangelands for AnGR.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Improved feeding for livestock especially ruminants.

Future needs

Government support through protection of suitable lands for range development and capacity building for stakeholders.

## 6. Establishment of livestock farms or holdings

*Note: This question relates to planning rules related to the size, location, ownership, registration, etc. of livestock farms or holdings.*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 7. Establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector

*Note: Instruments specifically related to organizations focused on breeding (genetic improvement) activities are covered in Section 1 (Question 5.2). Please use the present question to provide information on instruments of a more general nature (e.g. related to the operation of cooperative societies or community organizations).*

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Cooperative Society of Ghana provides guidance and registration for emerging societies/organizations in Ghana.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

New societies and organizations work under protected laws.

Future needs

## 8. Participation of livestock keepers in decision-making related to the development of the livestock sector

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The National Research Extension Linkage Committee that plans livestock development is made up of agriculture extension staff, farmers, animal production staff and people from research.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Inclusions of views of all stakeholders in decisions affecting AnGR.

Future needs

Stakeholder education.

## 9. Prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

Legislation

Policy

**If instruments are place or under development, do/will they include any provisions specifically targeting:**

**Animal genetic resources**

*Note: For example, measures targeting the protection of at-risk breeds.*

Legislation  Policy

**Livestock in general**

Legislation  Yes Policy  Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) attend to all disasters in Ghana, including livestock.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Farmers who lose their livestock through disaster may get support from government.

Future needs

Insurance of livestock.

**SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please provide information on any aspects of your country's legal and policy framework that affect animal genetic resources and their management but are not covered by any of the questions above.

Submit by e-mail